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Control: 5332
Rec'd: March 4:1[illegible]

FROM: Belgrade

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1263, March 10, 7 p.m.

BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS RECEIVED MAR 12 1961 OFFICE EE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SENT DEPARTMENT 1263; REPEATED INFO MOSCOW, ROME, ATHENS, LONDON, TRIESTE, ANKARA UNNUMBERED.

Following estimate Albanian situation reported by [redacted] under date March 3:

After return from Moscow last November of Soviet Minister, President of Council and President of Presidium, political climate of Albania changed rapidly, but not (repeat not) possible detect at that moment direction and gravity events to follow. Since then Albanian officials have progressively given way to Soviet specialists who become more numerous each day and are taking over control. Adoption Soviet inspired laws reorganizing agriculture and industry regarded as tacit admission at least partial failure two-year plan. Controlled press unleashed violent campaign against Belgrade-Athens-Rome triangle, lately converted to rectangle by addition Ankara. There is widespread anxiety in face increasing aerial violation and discovery well organized and supplied underground. Recent bomb episode at Soviet Legation was signal for purge and violent article by Minister Interior Shehu which was "veritable shriek of alarm," in which he admitted frankly that "parallel with growth exterior danger an interior menace comprising [illegible] dependents, petty bourgeois and weaklings has developed." He appealed to "police organs, state security and tribunal to intensify prosecution enemies of people and show selves pitiless in their condemnation". Two decrees passed February 20 and 26, first ordering immediate delivery arms explosives kept by individuals; and second, calling for severe repression terrorist conspiracies. Evident Albanian leaders have great fear about internal solidity of regime and appeal to police and terror to prevent any local uprising which, according to them, would have foreign support. Further they daily announce preparations for new Greek-Yugoslav aggression. On this latter point apparent regime seeks rally people by appeal to patriotic sentiment and old hate of invaders, and at same time justify their surrender to Soviet and contrive possibility of appeal to Moscow for direct aid.

On March 7 [redacted] Albanian Government addressed protest letter to UN against ten violations February 25 by Greek planes, and four frontier incidents in which Greek soldiers opened fire on Albanian guards with machineguns and mortars.

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mortars without casualties. Albanian telegraph agency reports three incidents on Albanian-Yugoslav frontier February 7, 15, 22 involving violation territorial waters, frontier incident and overflight Yugoslav plane. Tirana press continues violent campaign against Greece and Yugoslavia without let-up.

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[redacted] states recent cabinet changes result failure two-year plan and related present internal crisis.

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